

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5838

UNCLAS ROME 17045

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJ: CIVAIR: FORTHCOMING BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS

1. "IL FIORINO" (ROME BUSINESS DAILY) OF SEPT. 7 CARRIED ONLY ARTICLE OF ANY SUBSTANCE THUS FAR ON FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS. ARTICLE CITES CIVILAVIA AND MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AS SOURCES. CLAIMING THAT OCTOBER SESSION WILL BE SIXTH IN SERIES ON REVISION OF PARTS OF THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT, REPORTER NOTES VIEW THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE DIFFICULT BECAUSE TWO SIDES ARE FAR APART. HE ADDS THAT ON BASIS OF WHAT ONE HEARS AT MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT THINGS ARE MOVING TOWARDS DENUNCIATION OF EXISTING BILATERAL. ARTICLE STATES BASIC PROBLEM IN U.S.-ITALY CIVAIR RELATIONS IS ALITALIA LOSS OF ABOUT HALF ITS PASSENGERS ON U.S.-ITALY ROUTES BETWEEN 1972 WHEN ALITALIA CARRIED 445,482 PASSENGERS AND 1976 WHEN IT CARRIED 289,300. THIS LOSS, ACCORDING TO ALITALIA OFFICIALS, DERIVES FROM COMPETITION OF TWO U.S. AIRLINES AGAINST SINGLE ITALIAN AIRLINE AND OFFER BY FORMER OF 70.3 PERCENT OF TOTAL SEAT CAPACITY IN 1976/77 AGAINST 29.7 PERCENT BY LATTER. PERENNIAL DEMAND OF ITALIAN CIVAIR AUTHORITIES FOR NATIONAL PARITY, ARTICLE CONTINUES, IN NET CONTRAST TO CARTER ADMINISTRATION TRANSPORT POLICY AND TO VIEW OF SENATE WHICH JUST APPROVED AN "OPEN SKY" LAW. AT LATEST NEGOTIATING SESSIONS, ARTICLE CLAIMS, ITALIAN DELEGATION SHOWED FLEXIBILITY BY OFFERING TO ACCEPT, IN PLACE OF SINGLE

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AIRLINE FOR EACH SIGNATORY, SINGLE COMBINED SERVICES AIRLINE AND SINGLE ALL CARGO AIRLINE. U.S. SIDE REFUSED MAKE ANY CONCESSION ON THIS POINT. ARTICLE ONCLUDES THAT OTHER PROBLEMS TO BE RESOLVED ARE CAPACITY CONTROL, ROUTE TABLE AND AIR FARES.

2. COMMENT. EMBASSY BELIEVES ARTICLE PROBABLY PLACES BY CIVILAVIA AND/OR ALITALIA. EMPHASIS GIVEN TO SINGLE AIRLINE

CONCEPT TENDS TO MARK ARTICLE AS INSPIRED BY ALITALIA.
SUGGESTION IN ARTICLE THAT TALKS MOVING TOWARDS DENUNCIATION
OF AGREEMENT APPEARS TO BE PRESESSION POSTURING.GARDNER

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